GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:595
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2004
PRODUCTION AND IMPORT OF RAW SILK
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is reduction in domestic production of raw silk and increase in import of raw silk;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase domestic production with a remunerative price?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. There is reduction in domestic production of raw silk and increase in import of raw silk. The production of raw silk and import of raw silk during the last three years ie 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 is given below:

Year	Production of Raw Silk (M.T.)					Import of Raw Silk (M.T)
	Mulberry	Tasar	Eri	Muga	Total	
2001-02	15842	249	1160	100	17351	6808
2002-03	14617	284	1316	102	16319	9054
2003-04	13970	315	1352	105	15742	9258

The main reason for decline in raw silk production was due to continuous drought conditions prevailing in the traditional states viz., Karnataka and Tamil Nadu during 2002-03 and 2003-04 resulting in decline in mulberry raw silk production. However, there was no decline in non-mulberry silk production during 2002-03 and 2003-04. Also surge in imports of raw silk mainly from China since 2001 coupled with steep fall in prices disrupted the Indian silk market and adversely affected cropping pattern of a large number of cocoon growers of most of the States specially Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

(c) Several programmes and schemes to increase domestic production with a remunerative price have been instituted. The major ones are: -

- Research and Development efforts of Central Silk Board have been stepped up to improve quantity and productivity of sericulture, by evolution of more productive and stress tolerant breeds and hybrids of mulberry and non-mulberry food plants and silkworms; and development of low cost reeling and processing technologies in silk;

- Seed Support & Technical Assistance is being given by the Central Silk Board to State Governments, farmers & reelers by maintenance of parent races and basic seed, supply of commercial seed, and augmentation of grainage facilities for production of disease free high yielding and drought resistant seeds;

- Central assistance is being extended to states through Centrally Sponsored & Central sector schemes to strengthen farm infrastructure, increase area under sericulture, upgrade reeling facilities, improve finishing processes, strengthen cocoon & silk testing systems;

- Low cost and productivity enhancing technologies developed by the Central Silk Board are being popularized through central assistance to beneficiaries,, training to the States' extension machinery and beneficiaries, organizing of various awareness programmes, etc;

- For technology upgradation of the indigenous silk industry loan at 5% point less than applicable bank rate, under the Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textiles sector is available inter alia to silk sector.

- Supply chain issues between the farmers, raw silk producers and the weavers are being addressed by advocating contract farming models, price linked grading, etc.

- An amount of Rs. 450 crores has been provided in the X Plan for the Sericulture sector to support the above strategy & programmes;